

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the formation of a contact surface having good electrical conductivity on an aluminium support bar of an electrode used in electrolysis, comprising;
 - i) forming a highly electroconductive layer on at least one end of the aluminum support bar; and
 - ii) coating the lower surface of the aluminium end of the bar with silver or a silver alloy using a thermal spraying technique,
wherein a metallurgical bond is formed between the aluminium support bar and highly electroconductive coating material, and wherein the aluminium support bar is for immersing an electrode plate in an electrolysis cell and for supporting a plate support bar by its ends on the edges of the electrolysis cell so that the highly electroconductive end is held on a busbar.
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the silver alloy is silver-copper.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the support bar is equipped with a casing section made of some other material.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the thermal spraying technique is based on gas combustion.
7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the thermal spraying technique is high velocity oxy-fuel spraying.
8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the highly electroconductive coating material is in powder form.
9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the thermal spraying technique is flame spraying.
10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the highly electroconductive coating material is in wire form.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one end of the aluminium support bar is furnished on the lower surface with a notch, and wherein the notch area is coated with a highly electroconductive material.
13. (Previously presented) A support bar for an electrode used in electrolysis, wherein a plate section of the electrode is immersible in an electrolysis cell and a support bar is supportable by its ends on the edges of the electrolysis cell, wherein the area on the lower surface of the end of the aluminium support bar, the contact surface, comprises a highly electroconductive coating layer of silver or silver alloy and wherein said highly electroconductive coating layer forms a metallurgical bond with the aluminium support bar.

14. (Previously presented) The support bar according to claim 13, wherein the silver alloy is silver-copper.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously presented) The support bar according to claim 13, wherein the support bar is equipped with a casing section made of some other material.
17. (Currently amended) ~~The support bar according to claim 13,~~ A support bar for an electrode used in electrolysis, wherein a plate section of the electrode is immersible in an electrolysis cell and a support bar is supportable by its ends on the edges of the electrolysis cell, wherein the area on the lower surface of the end of the aluminium support bar, the contact surface, comprises a highly electroconductive coating layer of silver or silver alloy and wherein said highly electroconductive coating layer forms a metallurgical bond with the aluminium support bar, wherein the highly electroconductive coating layer is formed using thermal spraying technique.
18. (Cancelled)